IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. 10/594,096

Confirm. No.:

Applicant(s): Yasushi OKUBO et al.

September 25, 2006 Filed

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Examiner

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Annexed hereto are copies of publications listed in the above-identified application. An English language Abstract is also provided for each non-English reference.

The relevance of these documents is discussed on page 2-4 of the specification.

These publications are also listed in the enclosed form PTO/SB/08A. It is requested that the publications be considered with respect to the patentability of the present invention and that an initialed copy of the enclosed form PTO/SB/08A be returned to applicants to indicate that such publications have been considered and made "of record."

This IDS is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application. Furthermore, a first action on the merits has not yet been received in this application. Therefore, no fee is required. However, if it is determined that a fee is required, authorization is given to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1378.

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00) Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE 10/594,096 Application Number Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO September 25, 2006 Filing Date INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Yasushi OKUBO First Named Inventor STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Group Art Unit Examiner Name 06660/HG Attorney Docket Number Sheet of 1 1 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Publication Relevant Cite No¹ Exam. Document Number Code² Applicant Date MM-DD-YYYY Portion Inits* FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Publication Relevant Exam Offc3 Document Number4 Code⁵ Applicant Date MM-DD-YYYY Portion T^6 Inits No1 PCT WO 00/36665 A1 Battelle Memorial 06-22-2000 JP 05-299519 Α Hitachi Ltd. 11-12-1993 JP 2002-040205 Α Sony Corp. 02-06-2002 JP 11-198281 A : Mitsubishi Heavy Ind 07-27-1999 JP 2000-192246 Sekisui Chem Co Ltd 07-11-2000 Α

Signature Considered EXAMINER: Initial if document considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Date

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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

^{*}English Language Abstract Only